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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 5, please delete the paragraph immediately after "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" that begins with "This application is a continuation" and insert the following new paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of <u>U.S. National Stage Application Serial Ser.</u> No. 09/868,288, now <u>U.S. Patent No. 6,627,006</u>, filed <u>September 17, 2001</u> Jun. 15, 2001, in the U.S. Patent Office <u>under 35 U.S.C.§371</u>, claiming priority under 35 U.S.C.§119 and §365 of International Application No. PCT/EP99/07527, filed Oct. 7, 1999, in the European Patent Office and DE 198 57 799.0, filed on Dec. 15, 1998, in the German Patent Office.